

K-598

1700-1799; 1838

Timber Level Farm

Near Locust Grove

Private

The main section, according to a date in a second-storey closet, was finished on July 3, 1838, by builder G. M. Leary. It was built for John Carville Sutton and his wife. The same name is shown on the 1860 Martenet map of Kent County and the 1877 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlas of Kent County, though by that time it may have been a son. Though now quite plain on the exterior, the interior has numerous handsome late Federal details on the interior. This house indicates the basic architectural conservatism in the county. The form and plan were those of an earlier period, and the details (especially the stair) are still quite Federal though some mantels are bolder and apparently influenced by the Greek Revival Style. This is a transitional period in Kent County architecture. The house is very similar to the one at Lambson Farm (K-187), several miles to the east measuring along the railroad track that borders both farms. The houses are so similar that they could have been built within a few years of each other and by the same builder. This was a period in which the farms' earliest buildings were felt to have become inadequate and farm prosperity had returned to an extent sufficient to enable the building of handsome new houses, whether replacements for earlier buildings or, as in this case, additions. Although there have been numerous changes made recently, the east room of the wing appears to date to the eighteenth century. It appears to be a very early one-room building with loft and shows interesting early wall-building practices. A hewn tie beam was used within the loft end, and wall nogging is to that height. The plaster was applied to both nogging and framing members. The old hotel building (K-184) from Chesterville now at the Kent Museum at Turner's Creek seems to have been similar in its direct plastering without lath.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Timber Level (preferred); Samuel Sutton Farm; J. Carvill Sutton Farm; 'Part of Fairfields?

and/or common

2. Location

street & number East side Rt. 444, 1.8 miles south of Rt. 213, south of Locust Grove ___ not for publication

city, town Locust Grove ☒ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied ^{seasonally}	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ museum
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ commercial
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ educational
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ entertainment
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ industrial
			___ military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>worker housing</u>

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Angelica Nurseries, Inc.

street & number telephone no.: 928-3111

city, town Kennedyville state and zip code Maryland 21645

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 95

street & number folio 221

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys NONE

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-598'

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Timber Level Farm is located on the east side of the Black's Station Road, about halfway between Locust Grove and Chesterville. Its main facade faces south. The house is frame and two-part, with both sections gable-roofed. Probably built in 1838, according to a date in a closet, the main section is two storeys tall, five bays wide, and two bays deep. The main section is two storeys tall, five bays wide, and two bays deep. The main entry is in the south facade's central bay, and the plan is central hall with one room on each side. There is a chimney within the wall at the center of each gable-end. The style of the main section is late Federal, despite its rather late date. At the east end of the main section is a 1-1/2 storey, three-bay wide section with main entry in the bay adjacent to the larger main section. There is a pair of shed-roofed dormers in each roof slope and now no chimney in this section. Though the second-storey west room of the 1-1/2 storey section could not be seen on the interior, the west half of the wing appears to be a hyphen, added to a probably eighteenth-century one room building with loft at the time the main section was built. The farm is now owned by a large commercial nursery that uses this building for housing seasonal laborers. The house is now covered on the exterior with asbestos-cement shingles.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-598

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates July 3, 1838 **Builder/Architect** G.M. Leary

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Although there have been numerous changes made recently, the east room of the wing appears to date to the eighteenth century. It appears to be a very early one-room building with loft and shows interesting early wall-building practices. The main section, according to a date in a second-storey closet, was finished on July 3, 1838, by builder G.M. Leary for John Carvill(e) Sutton and his wife. The same name is shown on the 1860 Martenet map of Kent County and the 1877 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlas of Kent County, though by that time it may have been a son. Though now quite plain on the exterior, the interior has numerous handsome late Federal details on the interior. This house indicates the basic architectural conservatism in the county during the period. The form and plan were those of an earlier period, and the details (especially the stair) are still quite Federal though bolder and apparently influenced by the Greek Revival Style. This is a transitional period in Kent County architecture. The house is very similar to the one at Lambson Farm (K-187), several miles to the east measuring along the railroad track that borders both farms. The houses are so similar that they could have been built within a few years of each other and by the same builder. This was a period in which the farms' earliest buildings were felt to have become inadequate and farm prosperity had returned to an extent sufficient to enable the building of handsome new houses, whether replacements for earlier buildings or, as in this case, additions. The old framing of the east wing room is interesting, showing the use of a hewn end tie beam within the loft end and wall nogging to that height, to which the plaster was applied. The old hotel building (K-184) from Chesterville now at the Kent Museum at Turner's Creek seems to have been similar in its direct plastering without lath.

The main section of the house at Timber Level measures about 40 feet wide by 20 feet deep. The main section is five bays wide on both storeys on the south main facade with openings evenly spaced and aligned from first storey to the second. The second-storey windows are shorter than those of the first storey. The west end has a window in each bay of the first storey, for a total of six lighting that room, which had a reputation for being cold in the winter. There are no windows above on the second storey, but there is a pair of third level windows, also the case on the east end's third level. The rear of the main section originally had five openings as well, but after a rear wing was removed, the openings to it, which had originally been east bay windows, were simply closed. The central bay openings of the rear are markedly off-center to the west. The first-storey one is the rear door of the central hall, and the one above is the between-storeys stair landing window. The wing has three bays on both sides, with entries both front and rear in the west bay. Though last a kitchen, this was long a dining room. It appears to have been built when the main section was built. The east room is lit by one window, front and rear, and the west room likewise had both front and rear window.

The exterior walls are now covered with asbestos-cement shingles, applied over horizontal, lapped weatherboard. The exposure of the main-section weatherboard is about 4-1/2". There is now a pent eave across the main-section south facade, but it is modern, probably from around 1950, the probable time also when the shingles were applied. The pent eave is covered with green asphalt shingles, as are the main roofs; the soffit is plywood. The wing's weatherboard could not be measured. The lower rear wall of the east room is markedly bulged near its base.

There seems to have been no cellar under any of this house. The main section appears to be built over a crawl space on a foundation of dark-red bricks, now deteriorating, although it is possible that it began with piers only, with later infill of fieldstone and brick. The foundation is not easily seen, and it is deteriorated. The east section of the wing is lower than the west section, but both appear to be built over crawl spaces although there has been recent work done under the east section, perhaps involving a center foundation of concrete blocks over which a concrete floor was poured. This could not be well seen.

All four walls of what would probably have been outer walls of the east room of the wing appear to contain nogging. Some of the walls have been sheetrocked on the interior. It is in the northeast corner's stair that the construction of this one-room section first becomes apparent. There is a large, hewn corner post with nogging adjacent. A skim coat of plaster is on the post and fuller plaster, though not thick, directly applied to the nogging. The corner post is heavily braced and similarly plastered directly. Running beneath the sill of the replacement window in the gable is another heavy framing member that ties the rafters. The nogging extends to this level. A chimney formerly was at this east end but has been removed. A center chimney, to serve the west room, originally a dining room, may also have been removed from the west room's east wall, though it is possible there never

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was one there, despite the adjacent corner stairs. There is, however, a patched roof area in the vicinity of where a chimney would have exited. There is a flue hole for a stovepipe on the wing side of the main section's east chimney.

At each end of the main section, within the walls at the center, there is a chimney. They are both built of brick, though the east chimney appears to be rebuilt using modern brick, but in the style of the west chimney, which is deteriorated. There is a two-course band one course below chimney top.

The roof of the main section is now covered with green asphalt shingles. The wing roofing material is corrugated metal over several applications of wood shingles. There is a small box cornice on the main section roof, with a modified ovolo bed molding and a sort of bead and astragal. It may be later. There are flush beaded verge boards. The wing cornice is across the entire wing, therefore presumably dating from the building of the second section. The cornice is small and boxed. The crown molding here is a pair of beaded boards, one above the other so that both beads and fillets are revealed. Altogether it is about 4" deep. The bed molding ends about 6" short of the end corners of the wing. It is compositely molded. There are beaded flush verge boards on the east end, which cuts near the south showing where an old summer kitchen probably was attached. According to a person who lived at this farm early in the century there was a summer kitchen here. Now there is only a small plywood-walled entry box.

There are shed-roofed two dormers in front and rear roof slopes of the wing. They are set with no regard for the bays below but with reference to the roof ends. The roofs are covered with corrugated metal over wood shingles. Aluminum storm windows-screens are in place. There are 6-over-6 double-hung windows, with plain added trim. The windows occupy most of the space in the face of the dormer. The cheeks are of asbestos shingles.

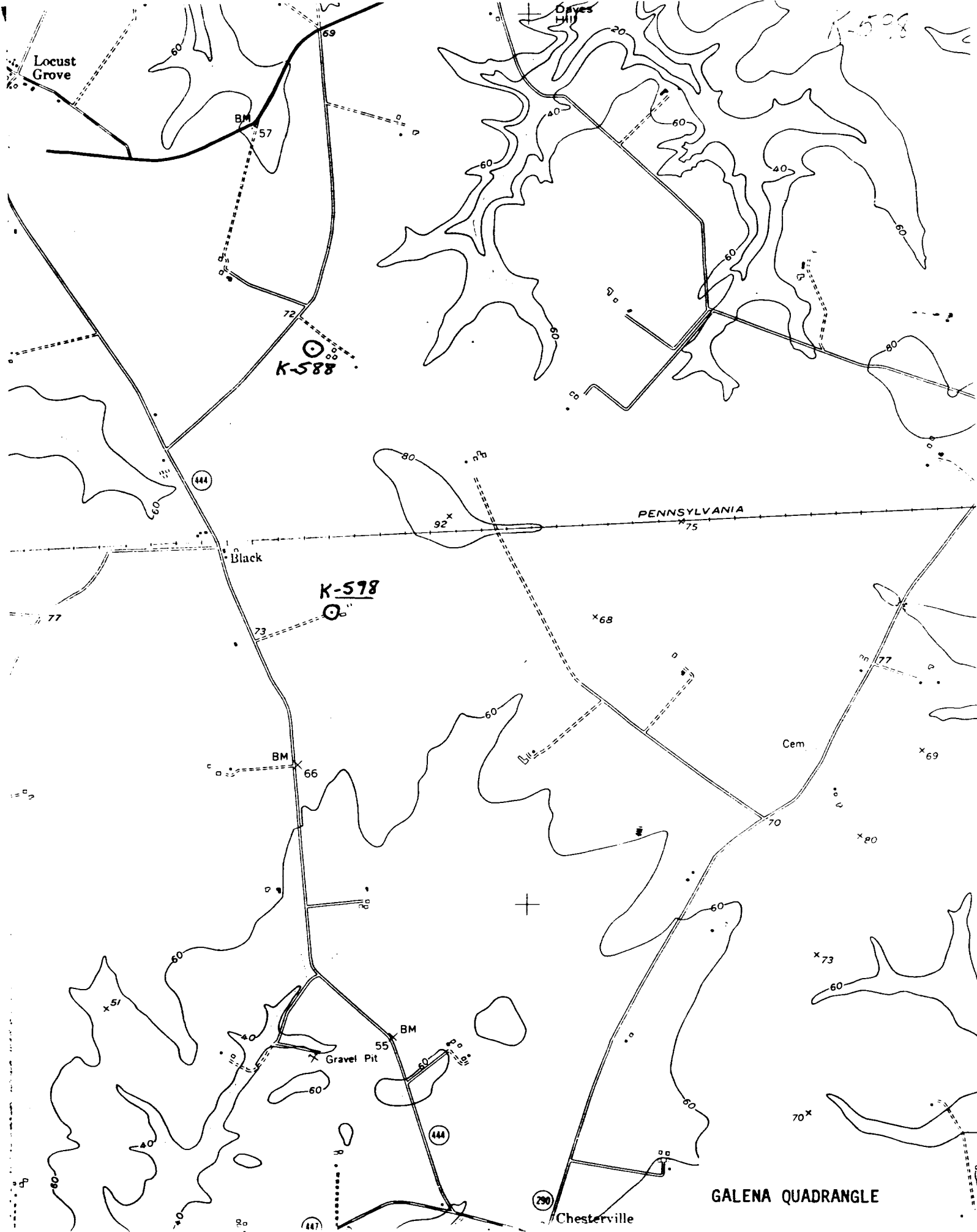
The windows of the main section are all double-hung. On the first storey the lights are 6-over-9, and on the second 6-over-6. The double-hung third-level sash are 2-over-4. The sills are fairly heavy and markedly sloped. Aluminum storm windows-screens are in place. The trim has a 2" fillet on the inside and backband as the main entry, but partially covered by a backband added at the time of the application of the shingles. Unlike the main entry, however, the fillet is not split-faced. The trim at the rear window in the dining room is somewhat different, however, with prominent ogee, as is the trim of the window above. Perhaps this was retrimmed after the rear wing was removed, though it is not clear just how far the rear wing extended. The wing windows are also double-hung. The lights are 6-over-9 also, but the windows in the east room are narrower and shorter than those of the west room. The east gable 6-over-6 window is an addition. Storm windows-screens are in place. On the west room's rear window there is an ovolo with fillets backband and an added backband when the asbestos shingling was done. The rear east window trim cannot be seen; it is covered

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by siding and a storm window. The front east window (small) has backband of ovolo with fillets.

The main entry has a five-light transom but no sidelights. The transom bar is compositely molded. An aluminum screen door is in place. The door has three pairs of panels over a deep lock rail, with a pair of vertical panels below. The panels are recessed and slightly raised. Panel molding is applied and is a small rounded ogee and fillet or bead. It is $3/4$ " wide. Trim overall is $3-1/2$ " wide: inside bead, split face fillet with each about $7/8$ " wide, backband of modified rounded ogee and bead, with a wide, rounded groove.

The main stair is open string and half turn with landings. The rail rises over a series of intermediates. Balusters are rectangular. There are two corner stairs, one in the northeast corner of each wing room. Main section mantels are late Federal-Greek Revival. The main parlor mantel has large, convex fluting, seen also at Lambson Farm, K-187.





K-598

Timber Levels

Rt. 444, near Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 12/11/85

View to north

K598-21

DAVID L. BENTON TRUST
LIBRARY

K-598 Timber Levels, site c. 1838



K-598

Timber Levels

Rt. 444, near Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 12/11/85

View to south

1598-24